



NEWS RELEASE

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Santa Clarita Valley Bank Teller Charged with Stealing from Customers

A Santa Clarita valley bank teller was charged today with four felony counts for allegedly stealing nearly \$25,000 from bank customers, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Samuel José Godínez (dob 2/4/89) faces two counts of grand theft of personal property and one count each of non-sufficient fund check multiple checks and theft from an elder.

Arraignment for case PA081315 is scheduled today in Department 130 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, San Fernando Branch.

According to the charging document, Godínez stole more than \$24,000 from two bank customers between January and April 2004, including an 81-year-old victim. The defendant stole over \$16,000 from the elderly victim, prosecutors said.

Godínez, who worked as a teller at Wells Fargo in the Santa Clarita area, used customers' bank information to steal the money. The bank fired the defendant after conducting its own investigation, prosecutors added.

The defendant faces a sentence of six years state prison to be served in county jail if convicted of all charges.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Santa Clarita Valley Station.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.